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Your Optical Fiber Solutions Partner™

News Release

NEW FLEX-10™ MULTIMODE FIBER COATING IMPROVES CABLE PERFORMANCE

Enhanced coating reduces attenuation, enables outstanding performance at extreme temperatures

52nd IWCS / Focus – PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 17, 2003– OFS, designer, manufacturer, and supplier of leading edge fiber optic products, today introduced Flex-10™ coating, an enhanced multimode fiber coating that results in lower attenuation, especially in tight-buffer cable; improved cable performance in extreme temperature environments; and excellent mechanical stripping.

Flex-10 coating will be used with all OFS multimode products, including the company's line of LaserWave™ fibers designed for 1 Gb/s and 10 Gb/s premises networks, as well as OFS laser-optimized 62.5um fibers. It demonstrates excellent performance in 50/125 multimode fiber cabling, which has become increasingly popular for high-speed network applications. The coating is completely compatible with all fiber optic cable used in data communications and telecommunications.

“At OFS, we recognize that an optical fiber is only as good as its performance after installation,” said Mike Pearsall, Vice President, Optical Fiber Marketing and Sales, at OFS. “With the superior in-cable attenuation results provided by Flex-10 coating, our customers will be able to clearly experience a greater level of cable performance and reliability.”

Customized for multimode fiber, Flex-10 coating minimizes the attenuation of fiber cables, particularly for demanding tight buffer designs that can otherwise cause light loss due to microbending. For cable installers, lower attenuation can result in reduced downtime and less scrap.

Made from a dual-layer, UV-curable acrylate material, Flex-10 coating also reduces field attenuation under normal and extreme operating conditions, such as low-temperature environments, allowing for greater cable performance and reliability.

In addition, the coating's enhanced mechanical properties make it easy to strip and install.

Qualification testing was performed in accordance with Telcordia (formerly Bellcore) industry standards GR-409-CORE and GR-20-CORE Generic Requirements. In qualification tests, Flex-10 coating exceeded Telcordia requirements as well as OFS' own requirements, which are often more stringent.

About OFS

OFS is a world-leading designer, manufacturer and provider of optical fiber, optical fiber cable, connectivity, FTTx and specialty photonics solutions. Our marketing, sales, manufacturing and research teams provide forward-looking, innovative products and solutions in areas including Telecommunications, Medicine, Industrial Automation, Sensing, Government, Aerospace and Defense applications. We provide reliable, cost effective optical solutions to enable our customers to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's digital and energy consumers and businesses.

OFS' corporate lineage dates back to 1876 and includes technology powerhouses such as AT&T and Lucent Technologies. Today, OFS is owned by Furukawa Electric, a multi-billion dollar global leader in optical communications.

For more information, please visit www.ofsoptics.com.

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